



Stormwater Best Management Practices

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Lessons Learned

LL-2004-03

Concern Statement: A dumpster lid was left open, exposing the contents to wind and rainwater. Materials disposed of in the dumpster leaked to the ground, resulting in a warning from a regulatory agency.

Applicable to: All employees disposing of materials into dumpsters.

Incident: An agency wastewater and stormwater inspector noticed two dumpsters, one without a lid and one with the lid left open. Neither was under a roof, which would have protected the dumpster contents from the elements. In addition, one of the dumpsters had leaked an unknown material, causing a stain on the ground. The inspector required that the spill be cleaned up, preferably using a mobile cleaner who is permitted by the regulatory agency to perform this activity and who observes required methods of cleaning and disposal. He also indicated that he would be issuing a warning notice to the facility.



Cause: Employees had not instituted best management practices for prevention of contamination to stormwater runoff. Employees had not been specifically trained in such practices.

Recommended Actions:

- Employees should be trained to be aware of stormwater best management practices, and specifically to keep dumpster lids closed when not in use.
- Employees should be alert to spills and stains, and immediately inform the appropriate EH&S or Facilities person if a spill is seen.

If staff discovers conditions described in this incident:

- If a lid is left open, close it.
- If no lid is present, notify EH&S or Facilities staff. They will request a new dumpster with a lid from the waste disposal company servicing the site.
- Call the Work Request Center to clean up the spill. They will clean the spill using proper methods of cleaning and disposal, i.e., not discharging to storm drains.

Further Information

For additional information on stormwater best management practices or the LBNL Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, see: <http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/esg/tableforreports/assets/swppprev0602.pdf>. Or contact the Water Quality Program by calling Ginny Lackner at x7413 or relackner@lbl.gov.

For other lessons learned, go to http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/html/lessons_learned.htm.